

I P E T E R

How Does God Shape His People?

Trinity Dallas Study Notes

1 Peter: How Does God Shape His People?

Part Four – 1 Peter, Chapter 3: Do We Really Have to Submit?

1 Peter can be divided into three sections:

1. Salvation – 1 Peter 1:1-2:10
2. Submission – 1 Peter 2:11-3:12
3. Suffering – 1 Peter 3:13-5:14

Summary of “Submission” from Chapter 2

1. Submission to civil authority (1 Peter 2:13-17)
2. Submission of slave to master (1 Peter 2:18-25)
3. Christ, our example of submission (1 Peter 2:21-25)

We should consider Jesus, our example, “for you were once like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls

I. Submission (continued from Chapter 2)

1. Submission of Christian wives (1 Peter 3:1-6)

¹Wives, **in the same way submit yourselves** to your own husbands **so that**, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

- “in the same way” – just as we are called to submit to the civil authorities and slaves are called to submit to their masters, and just as Christ suffered in His submission to His Father’s will, so Wives are to submit to their own husbands.
- “so that it” – there is a purpose for this command
- My Big Fat Greek Wedding analogy – the husband controls the head but the wife controls the neck and can turn the head!

³ *Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes.* ⁴ *Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

- God intends that the manner of living for wives be not based on outward appearance, but rather the inward beauty of a character of faith and obedience.
- **1 Samuel 16:7** "Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart."
- Peter's emphasis is not on the prohibition of outward adornment, but on developing the proper values of Christ-like character.

⁵ *For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

- These women were holy because they were set apart by their hope in God and His promise of salvation.
- They were habitually adorning themselves with an inner beauty respect and obedience which extended even to Sarah's speech calling Abraham her master
- You are her daughters if you do what is right...in other words, the norm for wifely conduct should be submission to God and the devotion to the development of Christ-like character.

2. The Obligation of Christian Husbands (1 Peter 3:7)

⁷ *Husbands, **in the same way** be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

- "**in the same way,**" as wives are instructed to pursue the inward beauty of Christ-like character, Husbands are instructed to do everything possible to create an environment where the spiritual life in the home can flourish.
- "**weaker vessel**" – not morally, intellectually or spiritually, but simply physically – a woman has less physical strength. The husband is to recognize this, respect it and take it into account as you live with her.
- The text is clear that men and women are "co-heirs" of the gift of life – their gender distinctions and functions are only for this age.
- Husbands... pride, egotism, and selfishness will ruin your relationship with God so take heed.

3. The Call to Righteous Living (1 Peter 3:8-12)

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

- “Finally” – bringing this discussion of Christian behavior to a close with some practical advice for everyone
- There is a blessing for those who will live with Christ-like character. Do not retaliate. Take the opposite spirit--it is to this that we are called.

¹⁰ For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

- The source for this passage is Psalm 34:12-16. “Life” and “good days” refer literally to earthly life and joys.
- Graciousness to others may lead to longer life and better days.
- Peace can be hard to find...but Christians should be the purveyors of peace.
- For the Lord is attentive to the righteous but is against those who do evil.

II. The Suffering and Persecution of Christians (1 Peter 3:13)

How should Christians behave when they are being persecuted?

Three Types of Earthly Suffering

Physical	Jesus’s Crucifixion
Mental & Emotional	Jesus in Gethsemane
Spiritual	Jesus on the Cross

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sister, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

⁴ *Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3

² *We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,* ³ *so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that **we are destined for them.***

Purposes of Trials, Tribulations and Suffering

Produces Fruit	Silence the Devil
Glorifies God	Makes us Like Jesus
Teaches Us Dependence	Refines our Life – Matures Us
Rebukes Our Sin	Enlarges our Ministry

1. The Blessing of Suffering for Righteousness (1 Peter 3: 13-17)

¹³ *Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?* ¹⁴ *But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."*

- Don't be afraid because Jesus has already won the victory...

¹⁵ *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,* ¹⁶ *keeping **a clear conscience**, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

- *A clear conscience--make sure we're not holding bitterness, unforgiveness or judgment... Re-affirming in our thoughts and actions the Hope that we have in Christ*

¹⁷ *For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

2. The Pattern of Christ's Suffering and Exaltation (1 Peter 3: 18-22)

¹⁸ *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.*

- His suffering made a way for us to be saved from the penalty of our sins. Being joined to Him, our suffering will have an end just like His suffering had an end when he was finally put to death, but the eternal reward goes on forever...

¹⁹ *After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits*

- He proclaimed His victory as complete and their doom was eternal
- ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,*
- The Ark was the means of their salvation. It saved them from judgment.
 - Everyone else died from the flood waters of judgment but the Ark saved them.
- ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of **a clear conscience** toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
- Before, it was a clear conscience toward those outside.
 - Now the clear conscience is toward His who saves us.
 - The waters of baptism absolve us of the guilt and shame of sin signifying that we are a new creation in Christ, old things have passed away, all things have become new.
- ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.*
- *His rule and His authority has no end. He is Lord of All.*
 - *Therefore, we have nothing to fear from those who persecute us... because there is nothing that escapes His notice.*

Summary

1. **Salvation** belongs to the Lord. It is a free gift for whosoever may open His heart and receive eternal life.
2. **Submission** is the means by which we come into divine order...positioning ourselves for the full inheritance we have in Christ.
3. **Suffering** – As long as sin is in the world, there will be trials, tribulations, and suffering. The suffering that comes through persecution has a reward:
 - Produces peace & righteousness
 - Silences the devil
 - Glorifies God
 - Refines our life
 - Makes us like Jesus
 - Enlarges our ministry
 - Teaches us dependence
 - Rebukes our sin

- Helps us get in to divine order

Discussion Questions:

- 1. When you think about the authorities God has placed in your life, how do you submit to:**
 - Civil officials?
 - Workplace/Boss?
 - Home/Spouse?
- 2. Share an example where you have submitted to the authorities in your life.**
- 3. When you feel yourself NOT submitting to the authorities in your life, how do you handle it?**